

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Spill Response Pocket Guide for

Discovery, Notification, First Responder



Safety First!

The discovery, notification and first response during any oil spill incident are the most important aspects for conducting a safe effort, accurately determining the potential risks, and initiating an adequate spill response.

It is extremely important for Service personnel to understand and follow the guidance provided.

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Division of Environmental Contaminants
1011 E. Tudor Road
Anchorage, Alaska 99577

FIRST RESPONDER

Once the initial discovery and notifications have been completed, a first responder must secure the scene and follow these steps:

1. APPROACH CAUTIOUSLY.

- Resist the urge to rush in; you cannot help others until you know what you are facing.
- DO NOT walk into or touch spilled material.
- Approach the incident from an upwind direction, if possible.
- Move and keep untrained people away from incident scene.
- Avoid inhalation of fumes, smoke, and vapors, even if no hazardous materials are known to be involved.
- Do not assume that gases or vapors are harmless because of lack of a smell; odorless gases or vapors may be harmful, perhaps even lethal.

2. IDENTIFY THE HAZARDS.

- Placards, container labels, shipping papers and knowledgeable persons on the scene are valuable information sources. Evaluate all of them. Reference the *1996 North American Emergency Response Guidebook* when identifying placards and labels.

3. SECURE THE SCENE.

- Without entering the immediate hazard area, do what you can to isolate the area and assure the safety of people and the environment. The U.S. Department of Transportation, *1996 North American Emergency Response Guidebook* and the *NIOSH Pocket Guide to Chemical Hazards* are part of the Service response kit and may provide the guidance needed to secure the scene.
- Establish a perimeter to keep untrained people away from the scene.

4. OBTAIN HELP

- Advise your headquarters to notify appropriate agencies and call for assistance from trained experts identified in the appropriate contingency and facility plans.

DISCOVERY

It is important to recognize when there is a discharge, release or spill of a hazardous substance or any pollutant or contaminant that it may present an imminent or substantial danger to yourself, the public health or welfare, and the environment. All Service personnel may discover spills at some time in their career. It is important to follow these guidelines:

1. **Keep personal safety first,**
2. **Remain alert and observant,**
3. **Do not exceed your level of response training,**
4. **Evacuate the area quickly,**
5. **Immediately report all discharges, releases, spills & any unusual sheens, substances, containers, etc.**

Note the following information for reporting:

- | | |
|--|----------------------------|
| 1. Date | 13. Spill Amount (est.) |
| 2. Time | 14. Sheen Size |
| 3. Person Reporting /Title | 15. Spill Secured |
| 4. Organization/Address | 16. On-Scene Weather |
| 5. Telephone #/Fax # | 17. Spill Cause |
| 6. Facility/Vessel/Responsible Party | 18. Resources At Risk |
| 7. Address | 19. Response Actions Taken |
| 8. Telephone #/Fax # | 20. Notifications |
| 9. Spill Location (place name, general location) | |
| 10. Borough and State | |
| 11. Latitude/Longitude | |
| 12. Spilled Substance (s) | |



NOTIFICATION

Federal Law Requires the Reporting of All Oil Spills to the National Response Center at (800) 424-8802 or (202) 267-2672.

Alaska Law Requires the Reporting of All Spills:

During normal business hours, contact the nearest ADEC Area

Response Team Office:

Central Area Response Team: Anchorage

269-3063

fax: 269-7648

Northern Area Response Team: Fairbanks

451-2121

fax: 451-2362

Southeast Area Response Team: Juneau

465-5340

fax: 465-2237

Outside normal business hours, call: 1-800-478-9300

The Service spill response protocol requires the notification of these key personnel:

FWS REGIONAL SPILL RESPONSE COORDINATOR

Catherine Berg

786-3598 (work) 694-7379 (home) 244-1529 (cellular)

(OR)

Environmental Contaminants Coordinator

Philip Johnson

786-3483 (work) 345-0300 (home) 242-6893 (cellular)

Local FWS SUPERVISOR

Name: _____

Phone: _____